

Didenko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,013,438). The Office Action states that Kinney et al. discloses an automated system for processing a tissue sample. Further, the Office Action states that Kinney et al. fail to disclose that the control device regulates the flow of fluid in the claimed sequential flow as recited in the claims. The Office Action further states that the Mathiesen and Didenko references both disclose methods of fixing specimens in paraffin which include a deparaffinization step so as to remove the paraffin and further process the specimen with stain and/or further reagents. The Office Action thereafter concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Kinney et al. so as to provide both the disclosed fixing procedure and the deparaffinization steps disclosed by the secondary references for the result of automating the deparaffinization steps with an automated system.

To better define the invention, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite “means for regulating pressure in the processing chamber”, “means for regulating temperature in the processing chamber” and “automatically and sequentially [regulating] temperature and pressure of the processing chamber”. In addition to the failure of the references to teach or suggest automatically and sequentially connecting the processing chamber with the container of clearant agent, the container of dehydrant agent and the container of aqueous solution in order to reprocess the specimen, the references fail to teach or suggest the regulating of the temperature and the pressure during reprocessing. These aspects, control of the liquids, temperature and pressure, work in concert in order to efficiently and effectively reprocess the specimen. Thus, the

claims are not rendered obvious by the cited references.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

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